

these that the great must live in the memory of the people, and I do trust that you will aid the good work by presenting the public with a cut and a short detail of the building. I forgot to say that the church is intended to hold about 300 persons, and I regret to say that the chief material is to be a friable sort of chalk stone; I say regret, because the county contains plenty of clay, which makes a beautiful red brick. A sum of 1,800*l.* has already been collected. Wishing that you will notice the building, I remain, Sir, yours, &c.,

A MASON.

London, Tuesday, October 1st, 1844.

[We cannot say whether we can give an engraving of the church without we see the design.]

#### LATH-WOOD.

SIR,—Your correspondent "M. L. B.," in last week's *BUILDER*, may very justly complain of the high price of lathwood in London, which is no doubt owing to the demand being good. In many instances we have imports here from Petersburg of 6 ft. wood, which may be readily bought at 9*l.* per fathom, and in some instances much lower; the same description of wood, I am informed, would sell in London at 14*l.*, and in some instances 16*l.* per fathom. If the importers here can afford to sell at 9*l.*, the importers into London must realize large profits.

OBSERVER.

Newcastle-on-Tyne, Sept. 26, 1844.

#### CRACK HOUSES.

SIR,—I am not at all surprised that my remarks are unsatisfactory to "W. T. B.," he is, I think, one of those individuals who seldom allow they are wrong. I must, however, in justice to myself, correct a mistake which he has made. In alluding to my former letter, he writes, "Scrutator" says the party investing his capital in houses does so on his own opinion, and therefore he is justly punished." This is very different from my observation, which was to the effect, that if persons, by following their own opinions, risked, or sometimes lost their money, it was partly their own fault in neglecting to procure a professional one, which I neither imagine offers a justification for the builders, or allows that all persons necessarily buy houses, trusting to their own judgments. "W. H. B." very cleverly assures me, that the majority of persons do procure a competent opinion on the houses they are about to purchase; this at once overthrows his own argument; he objects to the use of stucco and paint only when used as a deception; admitting, therefore, that professional persons are generally employed to examine into the stability and worth of the buildings, he must allow that the purchaser buys them, with the full knowledge of their defective state; consequently, clearing builders and stucco from the crimes of fraud and deception. This further proves the correctness of my observations, which were, that the capitalist was most to blame for the spread of speculative building; if crack houses could not be readily sold, they would soon discontinue to be built; and I certainly cannot wholly blame the builder for not building houses which, as a "Looker-on" remarks, he would be unable to sell. If, as "W. T. B." says, the majority of purchasers are retired or retiring tradesmen, it is rather puzzling to account where so many cits of fortune can spring from.

Another instance of the garbled and incorrect quotations of "W. T. B." is the following: he says, "the sources of speculative building are evidently not confined to constructing houses for the poorer classes; nor can all the odium of building crack houses be confined to the smaller classes of builders, or to those who undertake the task being no builders at all." I flattered myself that the meaning of my remark would at once have been apparent; I find, however, that "W. T. B." requires a further explanation; my observation was, that one (not all) of the sources of speculative building was to be traced to the number of houses being required for the poorer classes, and in consequence of much finish not being required, was an additional inducement to defective building, which being not so often observed, required to be brought more prominently into notice. He further adds, that one cause is the necessities of the

builders, thus admitting the correctness of my argument. It is for him to shew in what manner the honest portion of builders, by forming themselves into a society, can prevent the scamping part from satisfying the present wants of capitalists.

Whether "W. T. B." supposes me touched "on the raw," because I requested the explanation of an unmeaning phrase, and exposed a statement, which, in the absence of any explanation from him, I consider as of very questionable veracity, I am not aware; the extreme vulgarity of the simile will, I fear, unfortunately for him, only produce feelings of disgust in the minds of your readers at the depraved taste of the author, and effectually tend to suppress any feelings of admiration they may have experienced for the perspicuity and wit he has displayed.

I remain, yours, &c.,

SCRUTATOR.

London, October 1st, 1844.

#### Miscellaneous.

NEW CONCERT HALL, LIVERPOOL.—Measures are in progress for the erection of a new concert hall in this town. The shares are in great demand, and it is apprehended that there will be a difficulty in satisfying all the applications. Somewhere about 5,000*l.* of the required capital has been already subscribed.—*Gore's Liverpool Advertiser.*

KING'S COLLEGE HOSPITAL.—The authorities of this institution have it in contemplation to remove it from its present highly objectionable site to one that will be more appropriate. Some months since they made application to the Duchy of Lancaster, and the vacant space on the east side of Wellington-street, near Waterloo Bridge, was selected, but in consequence of a memorial from the inhabitants of Lancaster-place opposite, representing the deterioration of property that would ensue from the erection of an hospital in that locality, the Chancellor of the duchy refused his consent.—*Observer.*

EASY MODE OF MAKING ROADS OVER ROCKS.—In South Africa, Mr. Pringle succeeded in making a very excellent road by the removal of enormous blocks which frequently obstructed the only practicable line of road through a large extent of wild country, by the following simple operation:—"He kindled a large fire of wood upon and around the mass of rock he wished to get rid of, and when it was well heated, the fire was swept off, and several buckets of cold water were immediately thrown upon it, which, by causing an instantaneous change of the temperature in the mass, generally split it into a number of manageable fragments." Mr. Pringle, in a note of the same page of his work, "Narrative of a residence in South Africa," says, in allusion to this mode of removing rocks, "I afterwards found that this mode of splitting rocks had been practised with great success by Captain Stockenstem at Graaf Reint, in constructing an aqueduct along the side of a hill for the use of that village. The same process is also well known in Haiti, and is employed on a large scale there by the negro engineers, as I am informed by my intelligent friend, Mr. Richard Hill, of Jamaica, who, on recently travelling through that interesting island, found magnificent public roads carried through some of the most difficult passes of the mountain by this simple operation. In a country like ours, where wood and water abound, rocky roads may soon be made smooth, and inequalities of surface disappear by the use of fire and water, which, in their application to road-making, will be found less destructive of human life than steel jumpers and gunpowder."

—*Jamaica Paper.*

NEW POLICE COURT AT KENNINGTON.—The above building in the Kennington-road is likely to be delayed some time, owing to a misunderstanding existing between the ground landlord, Mr. Allnutt, and the Home Department, respecting part of the premises belonging to the Lamb and Hare public-house, which are required for the entrance for the van and the section department for the police. Mr. Allnutt requires 600*l.* extra for about three feet frontage in the Kennington-road. The building for the police-court is erected, but will not be finished until some time after Christmas. There is likely to be some litigation respecting the ground required.—*Morning Post.*

LIVERPOOL NEW DOCKS.—The new dock works, north-end of Clarence Dock, are already actively progressing. Nearly all the ground is fenced in, and the eastern boundary wall as far as Bullen's Mill is erected. The several occupants of the houses to be pulled down have received notice to quit. At the south end of the Brunswick dock, also, active preparations are making to commence operations.—*Ibid.*

THE OLDEST TREE.—The monarch of trees, the emblem of age in the forest, is the cypress which stands near Santa Maria del Tule, in the province of Oaxaca, republic of Mexico. This tree was measured by Baron Humboldt, and found to be 118 feet in circumference. This makes forty feet in diameter. This tree has no sign of decay, though its foliage is less lively than that of smaller trees, and calculated by all the data applied in the age of trees, this patriarch of the forest has lived 4,000 years, perhaps from the creation.—[A highly respectable gentleman, recently from Gambia, mentions that he there saw a tree 132 feet in circumference.—*Salon Gazette.*]

RIGHTS OF LANDLORDS.—There is a provision in the new Insolvent Debtors Act affecting the rights of landlords which seems to have escaped notice. By the 67th section it is provided that no landlord of any tenement let at a weekly rent shall have any claim or lien upon any goods taken in execution under the process of any court of law for more than four weeks' arrears of rent; and if such tenement shall be let for any other term less than a year, the landlord shall not have any claim or lien for more than the arrears of rent accruing during such terms or times of payment. This enactment was necessary to prevent fraudulent contrivances to protect property as well as the person, which cannot now be touched for debts not exceeding 20*l.* Under the next clause, a claim by a landlord or other person to recover property can be investigated by the judge of the court out of which an execution by a creditor has issued, which provision was adopted to prevent law expenses in actions under the Interpleader Act.—*Sunday Times.*

An Architectural Society for Lincolnshire is about to be established at Louth, having for its object the "promotion of the study of church architecture, and the preservation and restoration of ecclesiastical antiquities;" the Lord Bishop of the Diocese, the Lord Lieutenant of the county, and several influential clergymen and laymen, have signified their approval. The Rev. Irvin Eller, rector of St. Clement's, Saltfleetby, has issued a circular, inviting members to join, and detailing the proposed regulation.

Government has appropriated a sum of between 40,000*l.* and 50,000*l.* to the repairing and alterations of the fortifications at Fort George, and to the construction of works of defence on and near the island.—*Guernsey Star.*

THE NEW HOSPITAL AT BROMPTON FOR CONSUMPTION, &c.—The newly-designed erection at Brompton, which is, as soon as possible, to supersede the present establishment at Chelsea, is now proceeding as rapidly as possible, the western wing being under the immediate direction of Messrs. Bird, of Brook-green, Hammersmith. From the plans submitted to his Royal Highness Prince Albert in June last by Mr. Frederick John Francis, the architect, on the occasion of the laying the first stone of the noble edifice, there can be little doubt that this will rank among the first of the metropolitan establishments which reflect so much honour upon the religious and benevolent feelings of the country.—*Herald.*

BRIDGE AT WARSAW.—The progress of the great bridge over the Vistula, which has been retarded from the deficiency of funds, has received an accelerated movement, owing to a very curious circumstance, which, in the days of superstition, must have conferred a character of great sanctity on the work; the saints themselves have provided the needful. In proceeding to the demolition of a small and very ancient Catholic chapel, to clear the approach on the Warsaw side, two barrels filled with bars of fine gold have been discovered. The value is estimated at about a million and a half of florins (upwards of 150,000*l.* sterling), and the whole has been appropriated to the completion of the bridge.